

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 301940Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8110

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1895

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TD, UR

SUBJECT: GOTT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' VISIT TO USSR
AND WILLIAMS' INTEREST IN SOVIET ATTITUDES
ON RACE

REF: POS 1879 (NOTAL)

1. REFLECTING ON HIS JUNE 30 TO JULY 7 OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS JULY 29 INDICATED TO ME DISTINCT DIS-SATISFACTION WITH HIS TREATMENT THERE. ON JULY 25 HE HAD REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT THAT THE USSR WAS COOL TO THE TRINIDAD INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED DURING THE VISIT. SPEAKING TO ME ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL HE COMMENTED ON HAVING BEEN KEPT WAITING FOR LONG PERIODS AT APPOINTED MEETINGS, AND HAVING BEEN SET DOWN WITH A MINOR FUNCTIONARY WHO WANTED TO KNOW IN DETAIL THE QUESTIONS HE WISHED TO ASK BEFORE HE WAS PERMITTED TO SEE ANYONE TO TALK ABOUT SCHOLARLY TOPICS.

2. DR. WILLIAMS STATED THAT HE HAD SOUGHT REPEATEDLY WHILE IN MOSCOW TO TALK TO SOME SOVIET SCHOLARS OR WRITERS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE TOPICS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO SOVIET THEORIES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS RACE. HE WAS COMPLETELY FRUSTRATED IN THESE EFFORTS AND COMMENTED THAT HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER THIS RESULTED SIMPLY FROM
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RUSSIAN BOORISHNESS OR WHETHER THE SUBJECT WAS FORBIDDEN.

3. RECALLING HIS MEETING WITH US LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS DR. BOORSTEIN IN JUNE, DR. WILLIAMS THEN ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR US TO LOCATE FOR HIM SOME DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL ON SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD RACE. HE SPECIFICALLY ELABORATED THAT HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SOVIET SCHOLARS HAD SAID ABOUT THE PAN-AFRICAN MOVEMENT AND ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF NEGRITUDE. OF COLLATERAL INTEREST WOULD BE INFORMATION ON THE RUSSIAN FREEING OF THE SERFS IN THE 1860'S AND THE RELEVANCE OF THIS TO CONCURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SUCH PLACES AS JAMAICA AND THE USA. DR. WILLIAMS WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF APPROPRIATE SCHOLARLY WORK BY SOVIET AUTHORS (NOT PROPAGANDA MATERIALS), BUT WOULD ALSO BE MUCH INTERESTED IN SCHOLARLY WRITINGS FROM THE WEST RECORDING SOVIET ATTITUDES AND THOUGHT ON QUESTIONS OF RACE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE SOVIET TREATMENT OF ITS OWN RACIAL MINORITIES, BUT HIS PRIMARY INTEREST NATURALLY IS RELATED TO THE NEGRO RACE WHICH IS NOT HEAVILY REPRESENTED IN USSR ITSELF.

4. I AM SENDING OVER ON LOAN TO DR. WILLIAMS A COPY OF ROBERT LEGVOLD'S 1970 BOOK: "SOVIET POLICY IN WEST AFRICA," WHICH IS ONLY THING IN OUR LOCAL USIS LIBRARY EVEN REMOTELY ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER'S INTEREST. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IF DEPT. CAN POUCH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND APPROPRIATE SCHOLARLY WRITINGS ON SOVIET RACIAL ATTITUDES AND THOUGHT FOR PRIVATE PRESENTATION TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST. MICROFILM NOT RPT NOT USABLE.
RICH

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